In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A communications system, having a prepaid architecture for managing a plurality of prepaid wireless accounts for communication services, wherein each prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, comprising:

a wireless network including a mobile switch, in communication with a wireless device, the wireless device for remotely managing at least one of the prepaid accounts ~~wherein upon a communication session with the wireless device ending, the account balance is automatically pushed to the wireless device;~~

a wide area network including:

a prepaid account database for storing records assigned to subscribers of prepaid communications service;

a prepaid application module for initializing and updating the prepaid accounts, <u>for determining a current account balance while the prepaid communications service is in use by a subscriber, for comparing the current account balance to a recharge threshold, and for generating alerts once the current account balance falls below the recharge threshold while the prepaid communications service is in use, and wherein the prepaid application module decreases an amount of time from one alert to a subsequent alert as the current account balance continues to fall during use of the prepaid communications service</u> ~~and for obtaining the account balance and pushing the account balance to the wireless device upon the communication session with the wireless device ending;~~

a credit card transaction server, coupled to a credit card database, for checking available credit; and

a prepaid server coupled to the prepaid account database and the prepaid application module; and

a gateway in communication with the mobile switch of the wireless network and in communication with the wide area network to deliver the ~~account balance from the prepaid server~~ <u>alerts</u> to the wireless device.

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2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

        a web appliance, in communication with the wide area network, for

        remotely managing at least one of the prepaid accounts.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled and wherein the mobile switch is WAP-enabled and wherein the gateway is WAP-enabled.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the wireless device is selected from the group consisting of a cellular telephone, a personal digital assistant and a pager.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the gateway is selected from the group consisting of a push proxy and a WAP push proxy.

6-8.   (Cancelled)

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for replenishing a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account includes credit card account information associated with a subscriber requesting replenishment, the method comprising:

        providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;

        coupling a wireless device to the network;

        receiving credit card account information through the network by the subscriber

            entering the credit card account information into the wireless device; and

        charging a pre-authorized amount to the credit card account identified by the

            credit card account information;

        determining a current account balance while a prepaid communications service of

            the prepaid account is in use by a subscriber;

        comparing the current account balance to a recharge threshold;

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pushing alerts to the wireless device once the current account balance falls below the recharge threshold while the prepaid communications service is in use; and

wherein the prepaid application module decreases an amount of time from one alert to a subsequent alert as the current account balance continues to fall during use of the prepaid communications service.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.

12-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving an account balance for a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account balance is stored in a customer account database, the method comprising:

providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid account;

coupling a wireless device to the network;

~~upon receiving an indication that a communication session with the wireless device has ended, automatically~~ during a communications session, querying the customer account database to obtain the account balance ~~and pushing the account balance to the wireless device for notifying a prepaid subscriber~~;

pushing alerts to the wireless device during the communication session once the subscriber account balance falls below a recharge threshold amount, and wherein an amount of time from one alert to a subsequent alert is decreased as the current account balance continues to fall during the communications session.

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16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid account.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.

18-23. (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended) A system for replenishing a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account includes credit card account information associated with a subscriber requesting replenishment, the system comprising:

means for providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid
        account;

means for coupling a wireless device to the network;

~~means for receiving credit card account information through the network by the
        subscriber entering the credit card information into the wireless device;~~

means for charging a pre-authorized amount to the credit card account; and

means for pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account
        balance falls below a recharge threshold amount during a communications
        session and wherein an amount of time from one alert to a subsequent alert
        is decreased as the current account balance continues to fall during the
        communications session.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

means for coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the
        prepaid account.

26.   (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.

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27-29. (Cancelled)

30.   (Currently Amended) A system for retrieving an account balance for a prepaid wireless account, wherein the prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber, and wherein the account balance is stored in a customer account database, the steps comprising:

>   means for providing wireless access to a network for managing the prepaid
>   account;
>
>   means for coupling a wireless device to the network; and
>
>   means for automatically querying the customer account database to retrieve the
>   account balance during a communications session ~~upon a communication
>   session with the wireless device ending and pushing the retrieved account
>   balance to the wireless device~~; and
>
>   means for pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account
>   balance falls below a recharge threshold amount during the
>   communications session and wherein an amount of time from one alert to
>   a subsequent alert is decreased as the current account balance continues to
>   fall during the communications session.

31.   (Original) The system of claim 30, further comprising:

>   means for providing a web appliance for accessing the network; and
>
>   means for coupling a web appliance to the network for managing the prepaid
>   account.

32.   (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the wireless device is WAP-enabled.

33-35. (Cancelled)

36.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

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collecting credit card account information from a prepaid subscriber, wherein the

      prepaid account is associated with a prepaid subscriber ~~and wherein the~~

      ~~credit card information is collected by the prepaid subscriber entering the~~

      ~~credit card account information into a wireless device in communication~~

      ~~with a network~~;

establishing the prepaid account on a subscriber account database;

receiving a prepaid amount from the prepaid subscriber ~~by the subscriber entering~~

      ~~the prepaid amount into the wireless device~~;

checking the credit card account for available credit based on the prepaid amount;

~~pushing the account balance to the wireless device upon the completion of each~~

      ~~communication session with the wireless device~~;

      and

pushing an alert to the wireless device when a subscriber account balance falls

      below a recharge threshold amount <u>during a communications session and</u>

      <u>wherein an amount of time from one alert to a subsequent alert is</u>

      <u>decreased as the current account balance continues to fall during the</u>

      <u>communications session</u>.

37-38. (Cancelled)